

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** March 26, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on March 16, 2007

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response (Mercury Cleanup), Residence, Sidney, Ohio**

On March 7, 2007, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) requested the assistance of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) with a mercury spill at a residence located in Sidney, Ohio. On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Brad Stimple and Brian Schlieger responded. The home owner was in the process of removing a very old boiler from the basement. While cutting some of the piping connected to the boiler, approximately 3 to 4 ounces of elemental mercury was released to the floor. The home owner immediately contacted the local fire and health departments who contacted Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA detected mercury vapor levels in the basement and living spaces above the recommended level for a residential setting. Two young children reside at the home. On March 8, 2007, U.S. EPA and its Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) and Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractors mobilized to the scene and initiated cleanup activities throughout the day and early evening. On March 9, 2007, U.S. EPA and START performed confirmation air monitoring. Mercury vapor levels recorded throughout the home were well below the recommended action level.

Disposal of mercury waste generated as part of the cleanup will be arranged.

Contacts: Brad Stimple (440-250-1717)  
 Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)

**Final Report Presentation, Toledo Shoreline Cleaner Test Site (COREXIT 9580), Toledo, Ohio**

On March 1, 2007, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator Jon Gulch attended the Western Lake Erie Area Committee (WLEAC) meeting to present/distribute the Final Report for the Toledo Shoreline Cleaner Test Site, which was an "oil spill of opportunity" site on the Maumee River in October 2005. In response to the spill of opportunity, U.S. EPA, U.S. Coast Guard-District 9, U.S. Coast Guard-Marine Safety Office (MSO) Toledo, Environment Canada, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), and City of Toledo received conditional approval from the Region 5 Regional Response Team (RRT 5) to incorporate the Shoreline Surface Washing Agent Test and Evaluation Protocol for Freshwater Use in the Great Lakes as part of the overall response strategy. This was the first time that a successful test of a shoreline cleaner (COREXIT 9580) was implemented in a U.S. EPA freshwater Region.

The next step for the project will be for the WLEAC to forward the Final Report to the RRT 5, which has determined that this project should be given to the newly formed RRT 5 Science and Technology Committee, of which OSC Jon Gulch is a co-chair.

Contact: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Inspections, Elkhart & Warsaw, Indiana**

On March 6 & 7, 2007, George Rancich and William Sandstrom, Chemical and Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS), conducted two Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Compliance Inspections in Elkhart and Warsaw, Indiana. The facilities inspected were McDowell Enterprises in Elkhart and Danco Anodizing in Warsaw. McDowell Enterprises (SIC 3471) operates various electroplating processes including copper, nickel, chrome, and zinc plating, as well as certain ancillary processes. Danco Anodizing operates proprietary anodizing processes on titanium and aluminum primarily for components of body replacement parts, such as artificial hips, knees, etc. These inspections were conducted to determine if the facilities

have chemical storage reporting requirements under EPCRA 312 and to determine their compliance with those requirements. The results of the inspections will be reviewed by CEPPS to determine if follow up action is appropriate.

Contacts: George Rancich (312-886-6148)  
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Presentation (SPCC Regulatory Update), Federation of Environmental Technologists Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

On March 13, 2007, Barb Carr, Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Coordinator, gave a presentation at the 22nd Annual Conference for the Federation of Environmental Technologists (FET), Inc., in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. FET is a non-profit organization established in 1982 to assist industry in the interpretation of and compliance with environmental regulations. Membership is open to all industries, municipalities, organizations, and individuals concerned with environmental regulations. Currently there are approximately 800 members and 150 patron companies.

Dr. Carr provided a summary of the recent revisions (December 2006) to the SPCC regulation, including the new streamlined requirements for Qualified Smaller Facilities and Oil-filled Electrical Equipment, exemptions and clarifications to the regulation, the compliance deadlines, what to expect during an inspection, and over 100 recent inspection photos. The FET chairperson commented that this seminar draws the highest attendance at the conference. There were 110+ people in attendance.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

#### **Presentation, O. W. Best Middle School Career Day, Dearborn Heights, Michigan**

On March 15, 2007, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Michelle Jaster and Brian Schlieger participated in the annual 8th grade Career Day at the O. W. Best Middle School in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. OSCs Michelle Jaster and Brian Schlieger visited four classrooms to discuss various careers available throughout the U.S. EPA. The presentation focused on careers in all of the U.S.

EPA divisions, with a more detailed overview of U.S. EPA's emergency response work in southeastern Michigan. Students were able to ask questions, and discussions involved suggested topics of study for high school and college, benefits of working for the U.S. EPA, and how oil spills are remediated.

Contacts: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)  
 Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)

**Participation, HAZMAT Tabletop Exercise, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin**

On March 14, 2007, Glenn Cekus, Chemical and Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS), and Ben Maradkel, Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team 3 (START 3) contractor, participated in a Tabletop Exercise in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, hosted by Sargento Foods. Approximately 25 local emergency responders, County emergency managers, and a representative from Wisconsin Emergency Management also participated. The scenario, a simulated accidental anhydrous ammonia release from the Sargento plant was taken from that facility's Risk Management Plan and used to exercise the Sheboygan County Local Emergency Planning Committee's Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) plan. The area impacted by the scenario consisted primarily of the plant itself and a mobile home park located immediately to the west of the facility. The local fire chief acted as incident commander with the U.S. EPA, County, and State participants acting as evaluators and/or controllers. After the exercise, a verbal "hot wash" was conducted and evaluation sheets collected from the participants. A summary of the exercise and the evaluations will be prepared by START 3 and provided to the participating organizations.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

**Participation, Joint Airport Preparedness Workshop, Washington, D.C.**

On March 12-13, 2007, On-Scene Coordinators Len Zintak and Mark Durno participated in the Joint Airport Preparedness Workshop sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. EPA, and the Centers for Disease Control. The workshop included participants from three large eastern airport systems in Chicago, New York, and Washington D.C. The goal of the workshop was to assist staff from the airports and from local, State, and Federal agencies in understanding the planning and preparedness

activities needed to respond rapidly to a biological

contamination incident and to decontaminate and restore the facility to normal operations in the shortest time possible.

Contacts: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)  
 Len Zintak (312-886-4246)

**Attendance, Governor's Homeland Security Conference, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota**

From March 13-15, 2007, Sonia R. Vega, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Twin Cities, attended the 42nd Annual Governor's Conference on Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Emergency managers, responders from local, State, Federal, and tribal jurisdictions attended the conference. Minnesota's Governor Tim Pawlenty addressed the conference attendees the morning of March 14.

Contact: Sonia Vega (651-296-7361)

**STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

**Thank You Letter (Steve Renninger), Personal Touch Environmental Site, Dayton, Ohio**

Response Section 1 received a thank you letter for On-Scene Coordinator Steve Renninger from Gregory Lockhart, United States Attorney. It states in part: "On March 1, 2007, Steve Renninger testified before District Judge Walter H. Rice at a sentencing hearing for George Flory, owner of the Personal Touch Environmental site in Dayton, Ohio. Steve was an exceptionally good witness, who advanced our case with his testimony. Further, Steve dedicated hours of his time to work with my attorneys in preparation for the hearing, reviewing photographs, preparing cost documentation, and reviewing his recollection of the events from 2004. During the course of two hours of testimony, Steve was calm and collected, and demonstrated a complete grasp of the facts and events in question. Further, he did not allow defense counsel to twist or alter his testimony on cross examination. He was an outstanding witness. Steve is a public servant of the highest order. On-Scene Coordinators don't often find themselves before federal judges, but in this case, Steve showed that he was completely up to the challenge. We are grateful for his hard

work and dedication."

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)  
Scott Sherman (OSWER)  
Barry Breen (OSWER)  
Ed Chu (OSWER)  
David Lopez (OSRTI)  
Ernie Watkins (OSRTI)  
Susan Bromm (OECA)  
Catherine McCabe (OECA)  
Barnes Johnson (OSRTI)  
Dana Tulis (OEM)  
Elizabeth Southerland (OSRTI)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSRTI)  
Debbie Dietrich (OEM)  
Dana Tulis (OEM)  
Craig Beasley (OEM)  
Jim Woolford (OSRTI)  
Gail Cooper (FFRRO)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers